

Montgomery County Universal Preschool Implementation Work Group
September 18, 2008
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Lobby Auditorium
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

MINUTES

Members present:

Kate Garvey
Janine Bacquie
Jane Seffel
Julie Bader
Lindsey Allard
Khadra Ayorinde
Mary Lang
Brad Stewart
Gene Counihan
Traci McLemore
Jackie Lichter- replacement
Rolf Grafwallner
Clara Floyd
Jennifer Devine

Additional people present:

Vivian Yao, Council Staff
Shondell Foster, Council Staff
Ben Stutz, Legislative Aide to Council Member Valerie Ervin

Ms. Garvey called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. The group introduced themselves and the organizations they represent. The observers also introduced themselves.

Ms. Garvey reviewed the packet of information that was handed out to the Work Group members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Public Forum date was confirmed for October 15, 2008- 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A flyer will be distributed for the Work Group Members to distribute to the public.

All of the upcoming meetings will be held in the 6th floor conference room in the Council Office Building.

Quality Early Learning Standards and MSDE Standards presented by Ms. Bacquie.

- Joyce Nixon in the Early Learning Branch is the contact person for interested persons. This is relevant because all programs interested in receiving Preschool for All dollars must be accredited.

Montgomery County Quality in Early Childhood: Credentials, Accreditation, Resources, and Challenges presented by Ms. Garvey.

Presentations by Panelists: How groups provide training and the challenges they encounter.

Timeline for Preschool Project and the description of her program.

Jennifer Arnaiz- Resource Referral Center and what their role is in training family child care providers. 3005 providers were trained (53% of the family child care providers and 19% of the center based providers). She outlined various programs and resources that are available to people who choose to use the Resource and Referral Center. Training occurs under various funding sources, some under the Hoyer Grants.

- Pre-K Curriculum Project is a joint HHS/MCPS collaboration that was developed to meet the needs of the community. The Project examined what is needed for child care, where the children are and what are the needs to be met for these children. In addition, this project examined programs that serve the needs of targeted students and found seven centers to offer the proposed preschool program. Curriculum kits were purchased and MCPS indicators for literacy and math were given to these centers. A subgroup later organized that consisted of providers to help them better use the curriculum, and provide support for the teachers. A program was also offered for ESL providers. These programs began in FY06 and are being offered today.
- Foundational training was aligned with MCPS that was a comprehensive approach to developing curriculum.
- Lesson planning is very intentional with the help of the MCPS indicators.
- One-on One mentoring is a part of the project that has helped make the program very successful.

Chris Giovinazzo, Montgomery County Child Care Association- an association of 15 child care centers.

Training Institute has been around since 1985 in response to a lack of local training for child care providers:

- Trainers have educational experience as well as real hands on experience in the field of child care.
- Training opportunities are focused on pre-service courses for teachers, aides, directors and family child care providers: 90 hour course Early Childhood Development Curriculum course, Child Development Associates prep course, 45 hour school age curriculum course (this course is now a 90 hour course), 45 hour director course.

- Training is held in Silver Spring and Rockville and in the evenings or on weekends to make it easier for providers to attend.
- Provide leadership forums- advanced level professional development
- Trainers also travel to other centers to offer observation, mentorship as well as training.
- Train approximately 2000 child care providers in the past 3 years across the Maryland/D.C. area at all levels from the 90 hour course through graduate degree students.
- Training grants, training organizations are needed to meet the need for training.

Pilar Torres, Centro Familia- a community based organization that grew out of a need to respond to the Latina community. She is also the Vice President for the National Association for Family Child Care.

- The future workforce is going to be foreign born citizens and they need to be placed on a level playing field. There needs to be programs that help these providers get to the level where they can begin to take the established courses.
 - A majority of Latina child care providers are providing care in an unregulated home.
 - Centro Familia has established a training ladder that helps Latina providers become licensed child care providers. They enter at various levels of the ladder and are able to obtain the necessary skills, courses, and programs to advance through the ladder. All levels of the training ladder are certified by MSDE.
 - The Listos Para La Escuela is a step in the ladder that helps foreign born providers have their foreign credentials translated in order to become recognized teachers in the United States.
 - Child Development Associate offered to members in the Spanish.
 - NAFCC Accreditation Project is the highest step in the ladder for family child care providers. It is a great resource for providers and helps these women merge into the main stream service of offering child care.
 - The organization also has groups for family child care providers to help build leadership among the community and civic engagement in L.E.O.N.A.S.
 - ESL (English as a Second Language)- offers resources to providers to help them bridge the language gap.
 - Recommends examining the family child care system models:
 - o Massachusetts- Chinese and Latino programs
 - o VA. Infant and Toddler Family Day Care Program (private/public
 - o President Elect, Calvin Moore, in Alabama- only family child care based- has research for how the Latina children are performing better in family child care than in center based programs.
- JCCDC Head Start Family Child Care Program, Birmingham , AL

What is the difference between Informal and Unregulated Child Care? Informal is caring for family, friends and neighbors. Unregulated child care is breaking the law.

The Work Group went through various questions to help begin moving toward making decisions for the final report.

Work Group Discussion

- What are the professional development needs of the different types of child care programs and their staff? What challenges exist for providers with limited English language skills, providers serving predominately low income children, or providers serving students with special needs?
- How are we going to provide support/training for providers for children with special needs?
 - Stress management training, investment training (future financial training, family child care business)
- Ability to send documents to state and county agencies to validate credentials (translation of documents, etc.)
- Help programs cohort around a curriculum
- Federal grant for materials (CCDF), there should be more awareness among the family child care providers to receive grants for the purchase of these materials.
 - Family child care providers do not know how the grants are can best be acquired—grant writing and application assistance are needed
 - Adequate resources and communication to disseminate information to the intended recipients, or the entire recipient pool.
- Need to build on the cohort of networks of individuals since individual family child care providers are not very successful in obtaining grants or knowing about what grants are available to them. (specifically for family child care)
- Professional development (retail operation) for grant writing, professional development, streamline the professional development.
- Does the current system capacity for training meet the needs of County providers who operate at all levels of education, experience and type of program? If not, what are identified shortfalls? What considerations need to be addressed in providing professional development opportunities to County providers? How can the current system be expanded or enhanced to meet the needs of providers when Preschool for All is implemented?
- Pay particular attention to ELL participants, services are not currently available to handle the large number of ELL providers
- What is the intention when people engage in professional development? There may need to be a technical assistance to help an early child care provider establish a plan for where they are going when they take their professional development course.
 - Resource and Referral does have a Professional Development Coordinator that provides support for family child care provider.
- Need to compile information from all the organization and determine what is happening at each organization to visually see what is being offered and where we

- can improve. Currently there is a lot being offered but there may not be many being offered for ESL providers.
- What is the intention that people engage in professional development? Provide a technical assistance process needed for preparing a professional development plan. Ensure people are moving toward degrees.
 - R&R has a technical assistance line to help professionals
 - What standards, program resources, and opportunities, will be needed in order to provide for training for providers in the Preschool for All System, and the larger child care community?
 - Management system to be able to handle all this increase work that providers will be doing.
 - More information for the group should be acquired in the following areas:
 - Higher education opportunities for family child care providers in Universal Preschool if implemented for family child care providers.
 - Bring people together for online courses and build higher education programs to meet the needs of providers.
 - How are family child care providers being served in growing their business and obtaining resources to help meet the needs the children that will be receiving their services?

Ms. Garvey reminded the observers to please complete the evaluation form and include any comments that will help the Work Group in making the final decisions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.